

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICAE-00
SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 TRSE-00 MCT-01 COME-00
HA-05 IO-13 EB-08 /097 W
-----124316 011558Z /72

O 011245Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6981
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 1699

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, CD
SUBJ: NON-MILITARY SECURITY SITUATION

REF: NDJAMENA1696

1. ONE OF THE MOST DISCONCERTING ASPECTS OF RECENT
TROUBLE IN CHAD TO THE ALREADY SHAKY MALLOUM GOVERNMENT
HAS BEEN THE OUT BREAK OF VIOLENCE IN THE SOUTHERN
REGION OF THE COUNTRY. WHILE THESE DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE
A RELATIONSHIP TO FROLINAT SUCCESSES IN THE NORTH, THIS
RELATIONSHIP IS INDIRECT, NOT DIRECT. BY AND LARGE, THE
PEOPLE CONCERNED WOULD BE AS UNHAPPY, OR MORE UNHAPPY,
IF FROLINAT WERE TO SUCCEED IN TOPPLING PRESENT GOVERNMENT.
WHAT HAS OCCURRED IS THAT VARIOUS MINORITY TRIBAL
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GROUPS HAVE SEIZED UPON THE WEAKNESS OF THE CENTRAL
GOVERNMENT TO EXPRESS THEIR GRIEVANCES. AS FRENCH
HAVE SUPPORTED CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, THEY HAVE ALSO
BECOME TARGET (ALTHOUGH ONE OF A SECONDARY NATURE).

2. WHILE THE LARGEST PART OF THE SOUTHERN SEGMENT
OF CHAD IS OCCUPIED BY THE SARA TRIBES, IT IS SURROUNDED

BY A GROUP OF SMALLER TRIBES. THESE, LIKE OTHER SUCH
MINORITY TRIBES THROUGHOUT AFRICA, SHARE THE COMMON
TRAITS OF SUSPICION OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS,
MUTUALDISTRUST OF EACH OTHER, AND A FEELINGOF
NEGLECT, IF NOT PERSECUTION. IN ADDITION, EACH SMALL
LOCALITY HAS ITS ARAB BUSINESSMENT AND, WORKING
THROUGH THIS GROUP, FROLINAT HAS BEEN ABLETOFAN
THE UNDERLYING DISCONTENT INTO ACTION WHICH FURTHER
WEAKENS THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IT IS OPPOSING.

3. COMMENT: THERE SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT THAT SUCH
ISOLATED ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIONS WILL BREAKOUT
FROM TIME TO TIME AS LONG AS CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
REMAINS IN SUCH A WEAK POSITION. UNFORTUNATELY,
THEY CAN RAPIDLY ASSUME AN ANTI-FRENCH CHARACTER
AS WELL. BRADFORD

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